CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for identifying optimal allocations of computing resources in a data processing arrangement having a plurality of computing machines that host a plurality of application processes, comprising:

establishing a plurality of server models, each server model including one or more server nodes, wherein each server node has an associated set of capacity attributes;

designating a layered relationship between the server models, wherein for a first server-model layer immediately above a second server-model layer, the second server-model layer includes respective models that represent the nodes in the first server-model layer;

establishing a plurality of service models, each service model including one or more service nodes, wherein each service node has an associated set of demand attributes;

designating a layered relationship between the service models, wherein for a first service-model layer immediately above a second service-model layer, the second service-model layer includes respective models that represent the nodes in the first server-model layer;

normalizing the capacity attributes and the demand attributes; and

generating an optimized mapping of service nodes in a user-selected service model to server nodes in a user-selected server model as a function of the associated sets of demand and capacity attributes.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the capacity attributes include processing capacity and storage capacity and the demand attributes include processing demand and storage demand.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

establishing one or more service-node relationships between selected pairs of the service nodes, wherein each service-node relationship has an associated transport demand attribute specifying a quantity of communication resources required for communication between the associated pair of service nodes;

establishing one or more server-node relationships between selected pairs of the server nodes, wherein each server-node relationship has an associated transport capacity attribute specifying a quantity of communication resources available for communication between the associated pair of server nodes;

normalizing the transport demand attributes; and

generating the optimized mapping as a function of the service-node relationships and server-node relationships.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

selecting one of the server nodes as a base server node;

normalizing the capacity attributes relative to the capacity attribute of the base server node;

selecting one of the service nodes as a base service node; and

normalizing the demand attributes relative to the demand attribute of the base service node.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein each service node has an associated set of capacity attributes and further comprising generating an optimized mapping of service nodes in a first user-selected service model to service nodes in a second user-selected service model as a function of the demand attributes of the first service model and capacity attributes of the second service model.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein each server node has an associated set of demand attributes and further comprising generating an optimized mapping of server nodes in a first user-selected server model to server nodes in a second user-selected server model as a function of the demand attributes of the first server model and capacity attributes of the second server model.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

establishing one or more service-node relationships between selected pairs of the service nodes, wherein each service-node relationship has an associated transport demand

attribute specifying a quantity of communication resources required for communication between the associated pair of service nodes;

establishing one or more server-node relationships between selected pairs of the server nodes, wherein each server-node relationship has an associated transport capacity attribute specifying a quantity of communication resources available for communication between the associated pair of server nodes;

normalizing the transport demand attributes; and

generating the optimized mapping as a function of the service-node relationships and server-node relationships.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting one of the server nodes as a base server node;

normalizing the capacity attributes relative to corresponding capacity attributes of the base server node;

selecting one of the service nodes as a base service node; and

normalizing the demand attributes relative to corresponding demand attributes of the base service node.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein each service node has an associated set of capacity attributes and further comprising generating an optimized mapping of service nodes in a first user-selected service model to service nodes in a second user-selected service model as a function of the demand attributes of the first service model and capacity attributes of the second service model.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein each server node has an associated set of demand attributes and further comprising generating an optimized mapping of server nodes in a first user-selected server model to server nodes in a second user-selected server model as a function of the demand attributes of the first server model and capacity attributes of the second server model.

11. An apparatus for identifying optimal allocations of computing resources in a data processing arrangement having a plurality of computing machines that host a plurality of application processes, comprising:

means for establishing a plurality of server models, each server model including one or more server nodes, wherein each server node has an associated set of capacity attributes;

means for designating a layered relationship between the server models, wherein for a first server-model layer immediately above a second server-model layer, the second server-model layer includes respective models that represent the nodes in the first server-model layer;

means for establishing a plurality of service models, each service model including one or more service nodes, wherein each service node has an associated set of demand attributes;

means for designating a layered relationship between the service models, wherein for a first service-model layer immediately above a second service-model layer, the second service-model layer includes respective models that represent the nodes in the first server-model layer;

means for normalizing the capacity attributes and the demand attributes; and

means for generating an optimized mapping of service nodes in a user-selected service model to server nodes in a user-selected server model as a function of the associated sets of demand and capacity attributes.

12. A system for identifying optimal allocations of computing resources in a data processing arrangement having a plurality of computing machines that host a plurality of application processes, comprising:

a model repository including a plurality of server models and a plurality of service models, each server model including one or more server nodes and each server node having an associated set of normalized capacity attributes, each service model including one or more service nodes and each service node having an associated set of normalized demand attributes, wherein the server models are defined in a layered relationship and for a first server-model layer immediately above a second server-model layer, the second server-model layer includes respective models that represent the nodes in the first server-

model layer, and the service models are defined in a layered relationship and for a first service-model layer immediately above a second service-model layer, the second service-model layer includes respective models that represent the nodes in the first service-model layer; and

an optimization engine coupled to the model repository, the optimization engine configured to generate an optimized mapping of service nodes in a user-selected service model to server nodes in a user-selected server model as a function of the associated normalized demand and capacity attributes.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

wherein the model repository further includes one or more service-node relationships between selected pairs of the service nodes, each service-node relationship having an associated transport demand attribute that specifies a normalized quantity of communication resources required for communication between the associated pair of service nodes;

wherein the model repository further includes one or more server-node relationships between selected pairs of the server nodes, each server-node relationship having an associated transport capacity attribute that specifies a normalized quantity of communication resources available for communication between the associated pair of server nodes; and

the optimization engine is further configured to generate the optimized mapping as a function of the service-node relationships and server-node relationships.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein each service node has an associated set of normalized capacity attributes and the optimization engine is further configured to generate an optimized mapping of service nodes in a first user-selected service model to service nodes in a second user-selected service model as a function of the demand attributes of the first service model and capacity attributes of the second service model.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein each server node has an associated set of normalized demand attributes and the optimization engine is further configured to generate an optimized mapping of server nodes in a first user-selected server model to server nodes in a second user-selected server model as a function of the demand attributes of the first server model and capacity attributes of the second server model.